UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release: December 10, 1967

Walker 343-5634

UDALL CONFIRMS NEW SIGHTINGS OF BIRD THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall confirmed today that there have been sightings of the Maui Nukupuu (Hemignathus lucidus affinis), a Hawaiian bird last seen 71 years ago and considered extinct.

The Maui Nukupuu (pronounced Maw-e Noo-koo-poo-oo) was rediscovered in the Kipahulu Valley, Maui Island by members of a Hawaiian scientific expedition co-sponsored by the Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy.

Three other species on the international endangered species list also were sighted: crested honeycreeper, Maui creeper, and the Maui parrotbill.

The Nukupuu, a small perching bird with a long down-curving bill and a tubular tongue for extracting nectar, had been listed as extinct by the Department of the Interior and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Other discoveries of rare wildlife in the area have led The Nature Conservancy to organize a project for acquisition of the key 9,600-acre Haleakala area. This includes the Valley of the Seven Sacred Pools, near Hana on Maui Island. Most land has been pledged as a gift if \$592,000 is raised to secure 500 acres near the sea.

Dr. Richard E. Warner of The Nature Conservancy, who led the expedition, and Winston Banko, a field biologist for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife who first sighted the Nukupuu, have stressed the need to maintain natural conditions in the area for the protection of the rare life forms found there.

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